

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF SHERMAN, MISSISSIPPI**

**July 1, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen met at the Municipal Building at 6:00 p.m. on the first day of July.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mike Swords, Mayor
Randy Bolen, Alderman
Christie McDonald, Alderman
Adam Jolly, Alderman
Keith Rogers, Alderman
Martha Swindle, Alderman
Amanda Hodge, Town Clerk
Joel Spellins, Police Chief
Clint Long, Public Works Director

Also Present: Ryan Johnson, Ruben and Sue Greer, Dustin Dabbs, Jody Goodwin, and Billy Kidd.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mike Swords called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Alderman Adam Jolly gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alderman Randy Bolen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2025

The meeting minutes from June 3, 2025, were presented to the Mayor and Board for approval. Alderman Keith Rogers moved to approve the minutes, with Alderman Martha Swindle seconding the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with a 5-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Town Clerk Amanda Hodge delivered the monthly budget and bank balance reports to the Board.

IN THE MATTER OF BILL PAY

The invoices for payment from the General Account and the Water and Sewer Account were presented for approval. Alderman Randy Bolen made a motion to approve and pay the bills for both accounts, which Alderman Adam Jolly seconded. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF INCOME

Clerk Hodge informed the Mayor and Board that the sales tax collected for May 2025 totaled \$65,194.75

IN THE MATTER OF REHIRE EMPLOYEES

Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to rehire all current employees as listed in the attached document. Alderman Keith Rogers seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE

Rehire List

Town Clerk – Amanda Hodge

Court Clerk – Loren Buchanan

Summer help – Anna McCoy

Police Chief – Joel Spellins

Asst Chief – Chandler Brazil

Officer – Joseph Davis

Officer/ Code Enforcement Part Time – Tim Bell

Officer Part-Time – Chris Garrard

Officer Part-Time – Willie Gann

Officer Part-Time – Lesly Irby

Officer Part-Time – Brooks Green

Officer Part-Time – Terry Bateman

Officer Part-Time – Chad Jarvis

Officer Part-Time – Matt Stringer

Judge – Chris Childers

Judge Pro Tempore – Scottie Harrison

Attorney – Kirk Tharp

Public Works Director – Clint Long

Public Works – John Paul Grose

Public Works – Kendalle Morphis

Public Works Part-time – Brad McMurry

Summer help – Jody Goodwin

Summer help – Steve Morgan

Summer help – Payton Pennington

Fire Chief – Brad McMurry

Clerk Amanda Hodge presented the renewal rates for Blue Cross Blue Shield and Gap Insurance from Affordable Employee Benefits. Alderman Randy Bolen made a motion to continue with the same coverage, accepting the proposed rate increases. Alderman Christie McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MML VOTING DELEGATE

Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to appoint Alderman Christie McDonald as the Voting Delegate for the MML 2025 Election. Alderman Randy Bolen seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Alderman Martha Swindle then moved to appoint Alderman Randy Bolen as the First Alternate for the MML 2025 Election. Alderman Christie McDonald seconded the motion. The motion also passed with a 5-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MML TRAVEL

Mayor Mike Swords requested approval for pre-paid per diem for Clerk Amanda Hodge and Loren Buchanan to attend the MML Conference, scheduled for July 20–24. Alderman Christie McDonald made a motion to approve the request. Alderman Adam Jolly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

DEPARTMENTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Alderman Christie McDonald read a letter from William Kidd and requested that it be included in the official minutes. The letter has been entered into the record and is now part of the minutes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Joel Spellins informed the Board of ongoing issues with dispatch and the receipt of calls. He emphasized that all calls for police and/or fire services should go through dispatch to ensure they are properly logged in the system.

TOWN ENGINEER

Dustin Dabbs requested payment of the retainage fee to Patton Construction in the amount of \$8,481.00 for the completion of work on Main Street. He stated he would sign off on the project and notify Clerk Hodge when the payment can be processed. Alderman Keith Rogers made a motion to approve payment of the retainage fee upon Dustin Dabbs' final approval of the project. Alderman Christie McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Dustin Dabbs presented quotes for the Local Street Maintenance paving project, which includes Lamar Street, State Street, and various patch areas. The quotes received were: Murphree Paving at \$59,316.35 and Falcon Contracting Co., Inc. at \$57,965.00. Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to award the paving contract to Falcon Contracting Co., Inc. Alderman Keith Rogers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Dustin Dabbs also presented quotes for the paving of Cemetery Road. The quotes received were:

Murphree Paving at \$83,150.00 and Falcon Contracting Co., Inc. at \$72,670.00. Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to award the paving contract to Falcon Contracting Co., Inc. Alderman Adam Jolly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chief Joel Spellins requested an executive session to discuss personnel issues. Alderman Martha Swindle made the motion to open the executive session. Alderman Keith Rogers seconded.

Alderman Randy Bolen made the motion to end the executive session. Alderman Martha Swindle seconded.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW HIRE

William M. Kidd
61 6th Avenue
Sherman, MS 38869
July 1st, 2025

To the Mayor and town council of Sherman Mississippi:
Sherman Town Hall
26 W Lamar St.
Sherman, Mississippi 38869

RE: Town of Sherman Mayor, Board of Alderman, and employees.

On June 7th, 2025, strong winds knocked down 2 trees on my property. They were just 2 of the numerous trees knocked down in the Town of Sherman that morning. I wish to thank all that assisted in the clean up. Mayor Mike Swords was out assessing town wide damage as soon as the wind subsided. He told myself and my neighbor that he would get with the department heads and Board about picking up debris. Alderwoman Christie McDonald, separately, concurred that the town could assist in clean up. Town Clerk Amanda Hodge drove around the following days looking for damage. I do not know exactly who picked up the debris, but I do feel all should be recognized.

I do not see the efforts made as "just doing a job". Rather, I see a collaborative effort was made with the Town and the residents. For myself, I felt a sense of community that one would expect for a town 600. If possible, I wish for this letter be read allowed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it is read. Thank you to the employees and elected officials of Sherman.

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William M. Kidd

Chief Joel Spellins recommended hiring Officer Chandler Mason as a part-time officer at a rate of \$16.05 per hour for a 90-day probationary period. Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to hire Officer Mason part-time at \$16.05 per hour. Alderman Keith Rogers seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF LANDSCAPING

Mayor Mike Swords informed the Board of landscaping issues around town, noting that 11 flowerbeds require attention. He presented a quote from Chris and Heather Bryant for a long-term care and maintenance plan, which includes twice-monthly service for all 11 beds. The plan covers weekly inspections, weed removal/spraying, edging, trimming, and fertilizing at a cost of \$990.00. Alderman Keith Rogers made a motion to accept the quote. Alderman Randy Bolen seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS

Alderman Martha Swindle made a motion to adjourn the meeting until August 5, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Alderman Randy Bolen seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

APPROVED, this the 5th day of August, 2025.

ATTEST: Amanda Hodge
AMANDA HODGE, TOWN CLERK

Mike Swords
MAYOR MIKE SWORDS

